

Minutes of Meeting of Dufftown District Community Council

Date: 20th March 2018

Time: 7pm

Venue: Royal British Legion Dufftown

Chair: Jim Nicol

Attendees: Sarah Anderson, Angus Anderson, Joan Nicol, Ally MacDonald, Anne Hodge, Cllr Derek Ross.

Apologies: Zoe Bremner, Cllr Louise Laing

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- 1. Police Update** - The recent CSP newsletter stated there had been two incidences of vandalism in the Cabrach area. Lines of enquiry are underway for these. Oil thefts have been reported in the Keith area.
- 2. Minutes of last meeting** - The minutes were accepted as a true record of the meeting. Proposed Ally, Seconded Joan.
- 3. Matters Arising –**

Mobile Banking – The RBS mobile banking service to Dufftown is to be reduced from two to one day a week and it will only be for one hour. The CC feels this is totally inadequate for the needs of the community, especially as there have been so many bank closures in the area. The nearest branch at present is in Huntly but this is due to close which will mean Elgin branch will be the closest to Dufftown. Richard Lochhead MSP has written to the Chief Executive of RBS asking for them to drop the planned reduction in service. Ally suggested a letter to Douglas Ross MP expressing our concern regarding this. We want to point out that as a community this service is vital. It will affect an area with a high percentage of older residents who have potentially no access to internet banking, or indeed may have a poor broadband service. We also feel that Dufftown and Speyside has a big large number of tourists and that lack in banking facilities will affect both them and local businesses . Angus will draft an open letter for Jim to send out to Mr Ross and the Northern Scot. The letter will be sent to Speyside CC for approval before it is sent.

There is also a survey on banking in the DDCC emails if anybody wants to complete it. It came in from Jane on the 13th March.

Balvenie Street shared footpath- Ann asked if the shared footpath is to be a permanent one or if it will be being reviewed. The original idea was an experiment for one year and to see how it was received. There have been two complaints to the Council so far. Cllr Ross will look into what is to be proposed for this.

Dornell wind Farm – There is still confusion over the Steering/ Liaison groups and which ones we should be attending. Cllr Laing and Richard Lochhead MSP have met regarding the issue of EDF apparently reducing their agreed payments to the community. The DDCC has had various emails in its inbox with correspondence regarding this. Angus said Richard Lochhead MSP is happy to take up the issue but didn't want to tread on anyone's toes. It was felt that there would be no complaints from anyone if help was given.

Clock tower/ Flag- Frasier McGill of the Dufftown Community Association have been asking Jim what is going on regarding the Clock tower Flag. The Flag has been an issue for not only the DDCC but the Association and Dufftown 2000. Jim has updated both on the fact that Cllr Laing has been in touch with the Moray Council. Because works are due to be carried out soon on stonework there is an opportunity to get the flag replaced. Angus has donated a flag which we hope will be suitable for the pole. If not the the old one will be removed so we can order the correct size and correct fittings for the next time access can be gained.

Ally stated that Andy Cameron and Jock McKay wanted to know why the flowerpots have been removed from the poles at the Clock tower.

Jim reported that there are plans for the area around the Tower to be used as a cycle repair centre.

Corsemaul Drive rubbish- Both Anne and Cllr Laing have raised concerns on this issue and are awaiting outcomes.

DDCC Facebook/Noticeboard- Angus has created the DDCC Facebook page. It will be for information only and will contain all meeting minutes, contact details as well as anything of interest to the local community eg: road closures/Community events. There will be links to other sites of interest. Photos were taken of the Community Councillors to put on the site so they are recognisable within the community.

With regard to the noticeboard Sarah looked into prices and it depends on size and if it is to be wall or floor mounted. It was decided that a wall mounted one that can take 6-8 A4 pages would be a good idea. Sarah to get in touch with the Head of Libraries to see if we can put it on the outside of the building .If this is acceptable Angus and Sarah will measure the area to see what we can fit in and price up accordingly.

Crash barrier Parkmore Brae- The Community Council had expressed a wish to continue to bring this issue to the attention of Moray Council after the six month lapse. Angus has checked if this can be done if no new evidence has come to light. We are fine to go ahead and resubmit and Angus is happy to move this forward. It was discussed that in light of the recent budget was it worth pursuing but the Council feel that the issue is still very important. There is also an almost entirely new Council make up to last time which may make a difference when it comes to voting.

Local group Communication- It has been felt that better communication with other local groups would be useful in achieving common goals especially as there have

been crossover issues such as the clocktower flag. Jim has been in contact with Andy Cameron of Dufftown 2000 and we are exchanging minutes. They are keen to work with us. We don't know what the Community Association's views on this will be Sarah to contact them to find out their thoughts.

Spring Clean Dufftown- There has been a lot of interest from the Facebook post in the Speirins. Moray Council are providing tabards, gloves and bags etc. Waste collected will be split into recyclable and non-recyclable and will be left at the recycling centre for collection. A reminder will be sent out before the event on the 14th April and volunteers will meet at 10am at the Memorial Hall and split into groups for various areas around Dufftown. Refreshments will be available.

Agendas- Sarah asked how members wished to receive the agenda. It was decided to keep it as items for inclusion should be submitted to Sarah. If full agendas were wished for before the meeting, Sarah will send them.

4. Correspondence – Banking survey and Licencing consultations can be completed if anyone wishes. There is also an opportunity for communities to have their say on rural transport. This will be in September and they will send out info nearer the time.

Various funding options for groups are often received it was felt these should be put on the Facebook page and the noticeboard once we have it.

A meeting on Community Asset transfer in Elgin on the 22nd March may still have places if anyone wants to attend.

Jim has heard nothing further from Rune Mulvic on the trees/bridge issue. Cllr Laing had also been looking into the tree issue and Corsemal drive but there is nothing new to report.

Nicola Moss has kindly been in touch with the roads department for us regarding the blocked drain near Plasfiddich. Any issues with road maintenance can be reported directly either online by email or phone. It was decided it would be a good idea to put this information on the Facebook page. The Speyside Way flooding issue was reported to Ken Kennedy but as the correspondence was addressed incorrectly, it has only just been redirected so we should have a reply very soon.

5. Treasurers Report – All forms have now been submitted to the bank to make the changeover to the new signatories. We are just awaiting confirmation it has been actioned. The current balance of the account now stands at £1015.11, with a holding of £10 cash. Once account is able to be used again we can settle any monies owing eg hall costs.

6. Community Feedback - None

7. Reports

Local Councillors – Councillor Ross expressed his frustration over the recent budget in Moray and that he had tried in vain to get positive outcomes on many issues but was voted down. He also mentioned

again about a possibility of a joint meeting with Speyside CC as many issues are of joint interest. Jim to contact Speyside Chair to arrange.

8. Planning Issues- There are none in Dufftown however a complaint has been received regarding a building erected on a hill in the Glenrines area.

9. The Joint Community Councils of Moray – None

10. AOCB - Anne attended the training on planning. She reported that this mainly covered Moray 2020. There was nothing to report in Dufftown or anything locally was to do with the Dorenell construction. Planning has an emphasis on the future and making sure areas provide a healthy and enjoyable environment. Any applications of more than four houses have to include some social housing.

With regard to windfarm extensions Anne has a G Templeton as a contact and we can email him.

The public toilets on the Speyside Way at Craigellachie are to be closed by Moray Council as part of the cuts.

4. Date, time and venue of next meeting – Tuesday 24th April 2018 at 7pm in the Royal British Legion Dufftown.